

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Application of: Varga et al.

Examiner: TBA

Serial No.: TBA

Group Art Unit: TBA

Filed: October 31, 2001

For: **APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR IMPROVED VENDING MACHINE IVENTORY  
MAINTENANCE**

Attorney's Docket No. 4763-013B

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Box PATENT APPLICATION  
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

For this continuation application based on prior application 09/427,954, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent 6,181,981, please make the following amendments to the specification and claims. If any additional fees are required in association with this amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge them to deposit account 50-1732.

**In the Specification**

Please insert the following as the first sentence of the specification: "This is a continuation of Application 09/427,954, which is a continuation of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,981. This application claims the benefit of the filing date of U.S. Patent No. 6,181,981."

Respectfully submitted,

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By:



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Date: October 31, 2001

Attorney Docket No.: 4763-013B

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| I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT HIS DOCUMENT IS BEING<br>DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE<br>AS FIRST-CLASS MAIL, IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO:<br><b>COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C.</b><br>20231, ON <u>10-31-01</u> (Date of Deposit) |                   |
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